



Voting Information News

October 2005 Vol. 15, No. 9

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Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month:

- ☒ Start planning your 2006 voter training sessions now so that you can assist voters from states with early primary elections. Check for the dates of the elections in the Election Calendar, soon to be available at the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov.
- ☒ Check your inventory of absentee voting materials to determine what you may need to perform your duties as a VAO. Do not forget to include family members when determining the quantity of voting supplies needed.
- ☒ Check with your Service Voting Action Officer for a schedule of voting workshops coming to your installation or geographic region.
- ☒ Now is the time to generate interest in the 2006 elections. Use the local media to inform citizens of the upcoming election calendar, especially those states that will hold early primary elections.

**A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.**

Attention All Voting Assistance Officers...

The FVAP has prepared many new materials for the 2006 elections. Along with distribution next month of the *2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide* (see last issue of this newsletter) and the Election Dates Poster, the FVAP will release two new motivational posters (depicted below).

VAOs are encouraged to affix their contact information on the motivational posters as well.

To obtain your copy of the *Guide* and posters, the November issue of this newsletter will feature instructions on ordering voting materials for each of the Services and the Department of State.

The current *Guide* is also available online in PDF and text format at the FVAP Website www.fvap.gov. The *2006-07 Guide* will be available online in the fall. Your Service Voting Action Officer (see page 3) can provide further instructions for ordering other absentee voting materials for your Service/organization (i.e., FPCAs, FWABs, pamphlets, and election calendar). Know what your normal supply channels are, and be prepared by having these materials on hand. ☒



Motivational Posters

The FVAP has produced the motivational posters for Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs). The posters are designed to remind voters of upcoming elections and to motivate them to register and vote. VAOs should display the posters in places where they will be seen by large numbers of persons to help promote voting participation. The motivational posters are available in large (approx. 22" x 15") or small size (approx. 17" x 12") for those VAOs who have limited display space.

The Election Dates Poster provides space for VAO's contact information.

Election Dates Poster (12" x 18")

Election Dates 2006

The chart on the following page lists the 2006 State primary and general election dates in all the States, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories; primary runoff dates (if applicable); states with U.S. Senate races; number of U.S. Representative seats up for re-election; and Gubernatorial races.

Election Dates 2006

The General Election is Tuesday, November 7, 2006.

Note: This election information is current as of August 2005. Contact your Voting Assistance Officer or check the FVAP Website at www.fvap.gov for updates.

State	State Primary	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	General Election		
			Federal Offices		State
			U.S. Senate	U.S. Representative	Governor
Alabama	June 6	June 27	No	7	Yes
Alaska	August 22	-----	No	1	Yes
American Samoa	-----	November 21	-----	1 Delegate	No
Arizona	September 12	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Arkansas	May 23	June 13	No	4	Yes
California	June 6	-----	Yes	53	Yes
Colorado	August 8	-----	No	7	Yes
Connecticut	August 8	-----	Yes	5	Yes
Delaware	September 12	-----	Yes	1	No
District of Columbia	September 12	-----	-----	1 Delegate	Mayor
Florida	September 5	-----	Yes	25	Yes
Georgia	July 18	August 8	No	13	Yes
Guam	September 2	November 7	-----	1 Delegate	Yes
Hawaii	September 23	-----	Yes	2	Yes
Idaho	May 23	-----	No	2	Yes
Illinois	March 21	-----	No	19	Yes
Indiana	May 2	-----	Yes	9	No
Iowa	June 6	-----	No	5	Yes
Kansas	August 1	-----	No	4	Yes
Kentucky	May 16	-----	No	6	No
Louisiana	November 7	December 9	No	7	No
Maine	June 13	-----	Yes	2	Yes
Maryland	September 12	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Massachusetts	September 19	-----	Yes	10	Yes
Michigan	August 8	-----	Yes	15	Yes
Minnesota	September 12	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Mississippi	June 6	June 27	Yes	4	No
Missouri	August 8	-----	Yes	9	No
Montana	June 6	-----	Yes	1	No
Nebraska	May 9	-----	Yes	3	Yes
Nevada	August 15	-----	Yes	3	Yes
New Hampshire	September 12	-----	No	2	Yes
New Jersey	June 6	-----	Yes	13	No
New Mexico	June 6	-----	Yes	3	Yes
New York	September 12	-----	Yes	29	Yes
North Carolina	May 2	May 30	No	13	No
North Dakota	June 13	-----	Yes	1	No
Ohio	May 2	-----	Yes	18	Yes
Oklahoma	July 25	August 22	No	5	Yes
Oregon	May 16	-----	No	5	Yes
Pennsylvania	May 16	-----	Yes	19	Yes
Puerto Rico	-----	-----	-----	-----	No
Rhode Island	September 12	-----	Yes	2	Yes
South Carolina	June 13	June 27	No	6	Yes
South Dakota	June 6	June 20	No	1	Yes
Tennessee	August 3	-----	Yes	9	Yes
Texas	March 7	April 11	Yes	32	Yes
Utah	June 27	-----	Yes	3	No
Vermont	September 12	-----	Yes	1	Yes
Virginia	June 13	-----	Yes	11	No
Virgin Islands	September 11	September 25	-----	1 Delegate	Yes
Washington	September 19	-----	Yes	9	No
West Virginia	May 9	-----	Yes	3	No
Wisconsin	September 12	-----	Yes	8	Yes
Wyoming	August 22	-----	Yes	1	Yes

Election 2004 Retrospective: State Department Voting Assistance Abroad

By Jack Markey

In 2004, the Department of State, working closely with FVAP headquarters staff, conducted the most extensive and most successful voting assistance program in its history. More than 600 consular employees at US Embassies and Consulates provided outstanding voting information and assistance to US Government officials and private American citizens residing abroad. Supporting them in their efforts were numerous overseas citizens organizations, major courier companies, Embassy wardens, and armies of private American citizen volunteers.

The challenges facing this team were substantial. The roughly 4.5 million Americans who reside abroad are not required to register, and many live great distances from Embassies or Consulates. The overseas American community is extremely diverse – business men and women, students, employees of non-governmental organizations, retirees – some recent arrivals and other long-term residents. Large numbers of them were infrequent or first-time voters unfamiliar with absentee voting procedures.

Beginning in late 2003, State Department voting officers took their message to American communities around the globe. From Tel Aviv to Tokyo, from Sydney to Santo Domingo, and all points in between, U.S. Embassy personnel went to extraordinary lengths to help their fellow citizens participate in the U.S. electoral process. In addition to website information and e-mail messages, they positioned voting information tables at exhibition baseball games in Tokyo, visited cyber cafes from Kiev

to Seoul, and set up voting booths at Embassy July 4th celebrations worldwide. They visited schools, hospitals and churches, did radio and TV interviews, and scheduled countless town hall meetings throughout the year.

In consular sections around the world, there were signs asking visitors if they had registered to vote or needed assistance in doing so. When mailing out new passports, many posts included voting reminders. Staff in Auckland, New Zealand placed hundreds of emergency write-in ballots on a supply plane that went to Antarctica in early October. Moscow's outreach produced ballots from Americans in Siberia. Peace Corps volunteers and missionaries in remote African villages were able to register and vote.

Many Embassies and Consulates held voting assistance parties in October to facilitate distribution of emergency Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots and to generate enthusiasm within the American community. These events, such as the ones held in Cape Town and Hong Kong, received extensive local and international media coverage and brought thousands of Americans to US consular sections for last-minute assistance. As in past elections, major courier companies once again generously offered a variety of free or discounted services to overseas voters.

(continued on next page)

Please share this copy of *Voting Information News* with others.

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **Email:** votinginfo@state.gov
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Service Voting Action Officers

U.S. Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532
DSN fax: 221-4532, **Email:** davisj@hoffman.army.mil,
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm>

U.S. Dept. of the Navy: LT Dwight H. Isaacs **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu),
fax: (901) 874-6825, **DSN fax:** 882-6825,
Email: vote@navy.mil, <http://www.mwr.navy.mil/nvap/index.html>

U.S. Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 565-5000, **toll free:** 1-800 616-3775 (Select options 1, then 1, then 2 from menu), **DSN** 665-5000; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543;
Email: afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil; <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/>

U.S. Marine Corps: Mr. Robert Wagner **tel:** (703) 784-9513, **DSN:** 278-9513; **fax:** (703) 784-9827,
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https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home

U.S. Coast Guard: CWO Carol McFadden **tel:** (202)-267-1652, **fax:** (202) 267-4823;
Email: cmcfadden@comdt.uscg.mil,
http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm

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Federal Voting Assistance Program

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DSN 425-1584

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DSN 426-1352

VOTING INFORMATION
CENTER (VIC):
(703) 588-1343
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE (VIC and FVAP
staff member):
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

*Visit our website for
international toll-free phone
and fax numbers.*

EMAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Comments or suggestions on
this newsletter are welcome.

Website:
www.fvap.gov

Vote!

FVAP Seeking "Best Practices" From Local Election Offices

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is looking for the best practices state and local election officials use to increase voter participation, voter access, and voter education for our military and overseas voters. The best of these will be listed on the FVAP website and printed in a special section devoted to local election officials in this newsletter that is a roundup of voting news for voters, potential voters and those who assist voters. Please submit your most successful practices by

December 15, 2005 to
bestpractice@fvap.ncr.gov.

We will also be publishing selected best practices and all election administration practices that state and local jurisdictions find particularly successful and are willing to share with others through the FVAP website and VIN. Please submit these as well to bestpractice@fvap.ncr.gov. ☑

State Department Voting Assistance Abroad (continued)

The Department's voting program management team worked closely with posts abroad to provide information, address questions and solve problems. Diplomatic mail officials supported the effort by shipping voting supplies around the globe, and speeding ballot requests and voted ballots from all corners of the world through the State Department's diplomatic pouches.

many, but a significant reason was surely the hard work and dedication, on a global scale, of consular voting assistance officers and their networks of overseas Americans.

For more information about the State Department's voting assistance program, write to votinginfo@state.gov.

Jack Markey is the U.S. Department of State Chief Voting Assistance Officer. ☑

Unprecedented numbers of overseas Americans exercised their right to vote in 2004. The contributing factors were

Share your best practices! Send your best practice(s), novel ideas and lessons learned to your Voting Action Officer. (contact information inside)

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